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The Museum of the Regiments

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The Museum of the Regiments was officially opened by her Majesty the Queen on 25 June 1990. The actual planning for the Museum commenced in 1986, when the Regimental Museums of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) and Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) acknowledged that the facility then housing their collections was ill-suited for that role. Consequently, the Calgary Military Museums Society was formed by combining the efforts of the aforementioned two museums, CFB Calgary and the museums of

Defence, the city of Calgary, the Province of Alberta as well as through corporate and private donations to convert the building into a proper museum.

When the Museum of the Regiments was opened in 1990, the regimental galleries were far from complete. In March 1994, the last two galleries, belonging to the PPCLI and the KOCR were fully completed. This marked the end of Stage I of the Museum Development Plan, the development of the display and public areas.

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Captain J.R. Grodzinski

the King's Own Calgary Regiment (KOCR) and the Calgary Highlanders. The society was able to secure a school building near the Currie Barracks to house these collections in a state-of-the-art facility. Funding was obtained through the Department of National

So what can the public see? The museum currently has five galleries. There are four Regimental Galleries telling the story of four Calgary-based armour and infantry regiments from 1900 to the present, and a fifth gallery known as the Imperial Oil Gallery

A tank commander from the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) gives directions to a Sergeant from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in the Autumn of 1944. (PPCLI)



which hosts art shows and other exhibits. There is also the 60-seat Amoco Theatre which hosts continuous showings of films and documentaries to museum visitors. The general history of the military in Alberta since 1870 is also portrayed in several other displays. A diorama covering the development of cooperation between infantry and armour in the Second World War and an aid post are located at the entrance to the museum. Outside there is a collection of tanks, tracked and wheeled vehicles and anti-tank guns. There is also a gift shop and deli, which has a variety of hot and cold lunches.

Although the museum originally intended to tell the story of the four Calgary-based regiments, its scope has grown and it is now the focal point for military history research enquiries in Western Canada. To accommodate this change and to tell a greater story, the Museum of the Regiments will be adding a fifth component museum depicting the history of those units and corps from Southern Alberta outside of the current four regimental museums.

The museum also holds the archives of the four regiments and general information on the Canadian military. Some 300 inquiries from the public, media, military units and institutions are handled each year.

Now that Phase I is complete, efforts are being directed to Phase II which is the development of storage, archival, workshop and restoration areas.

The Museum of the Regiments is located at 4520 Crowchild Tr. S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T3E 1T8, (Across from the Currie Barracks). Hours of Operation are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Labour Day to 30 June and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Canada Day to Labour Day. The museum is open six days a week and is closed on Wednesdays, 24-26 December and 1 January. Admission is free. For more information call (403) 240-7674.

Upcoming events at the Museum of the Regiments:

The Poster War: Allied Propaganda Posters of the First World War, March 1994
The Polish Armed Forces in the Second World War, 9 May to 30 June 1994
300th Anniversary of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, April-June 1994.
Commemorative Parade Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Normandy and the Fall of Rome, 4 June 1994
The War Art of Sir Alfred Munning, September 1994 - March 1995

*A recreation of Sergeant Richardson winning the Victoria Cross, 5 July 1900.
Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Gallery.(Museum of the Regiments)*

